Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ADDIS 00095 070745Z
ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 IO-13 OMB-01 TRSE-00 EB-07 AID-05 SSM-03
SAJ-01 /094 W
----------070749Z 100456 /17
R 070657Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2230
INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 0095

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR ET SU
SUBJ: ETHIOPIANS CONTINUE TO DOWNPLAY DISPUTE WITH SUDAN

REF: ADDIS ABABA60

SUMMARY: IN ITS PUBLIC AND PRIVATE STATEMENTS, EPMG CONTINUES TO DOWNPLAY SERIOUSNESS OF CURRENT FLARE-UP IN ETHIO-SUDANESE RELATIONS. MOFA AFRICAN AFFAIRS DIRECTOR BERHANU DINKA TOLD POL COUNS THAT HE KNEW OF NO SITUATION DEVELOPING BETWEEN TWO COUNTIRES THAT HAD WARRANTED NIMERI'S OUTBURST. IN HIS OPINION, NIMEIRI WAS NOT SPEAKING WITH HIS OWN VOICE, BUT RATHER PAYING OFF POLITICAL PRICE IN ANTICIPATION OF ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE FROM " OTHER ARAB COUNTRIES". AT SAME TIME BERHANU INDICATED THAT ETHIOPIAN CHARGE IN KHARTOUM REPORTED SIGNS THAT SUDANESE ALSO DESIRED TO LET ISSUE DIE DOWN.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ADDIS 00095 070745Z

SUDANESE DIPLOMAT IN ADDIS ABABA ALSO SEEMED RELAXED OVER PROBLEM. HE DESCRIBED NIMEIRI SPEECHES AS DESIGNED TO PRECLUDE FUTURE ETHIOPIAN ASSISTANCE TO LIBYAN ATTEMPTS TO OVERTHROW HIM, AS SUDANESE WERE CONVINCED HAD BEEN CASE IN JULY 2 ATTEMPT.
END SUMMARY.

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

1. DURING CONVERSATION WITH MOFA AFRICAN AFFAIRS DIRECTOR
BERHANU DINKA, POLCOUNS ASKED ABOUT ETHIOPIAN PERCEPTION
OF REASONS FOR NIMEIRI'S GEDAREF AND KADUGLI SPEECHES,
WHICH HAD TRIGGERED FLURRY OF ACRIMONIOUS EXCHANGES BETWEEN
SUDAN AND ETHIOPIA. BERHANU NOTED THAT ACRIMONY HAD HITHERTO
ALL BEEN ON ONE SIDE, THAT SECOND MOFA PRESS STATEMENT ON
SUBJECT HAD BEEN EVEN MILDER THAN FIRST, AND THAT ETHIOPIAN
MEDIA HAD CONSISTENTLY DOWNPLAYED GRAVITY OF CHARGES.
IN MINISTRY'S VIEW, NIMEIRI WAS NOT SPEAKING FOR HIMSELF IN
THIS INSTANCE, UBT SIMPLY DEMONSTRATING HIS POLITICAL
RELIABILITY TO HIS NEWFOUND ARAB FRIENDS.

2. BERHANU POINTED OUT THAT THERE HAD BEEN FREQUENT FLARE-
UPS OF SIMILAR NATURE BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES OVER YEARS,
THAT THEY USUALLY DIED DOWN QUICKLY, AND THAT HE EXPECTED
CURRENT TOUCHY SITUATION TO BE SHORTLIVED. HE CONFIRMED
THAT OTHER AFRICAN COUNTRIES HAD OFFERED TO MEDIATE
DISPUTE, BUT SAID THAT EPMG PREFERRED TO RESOLVE DIFFICULTIES
ITSELF. (TANZANIAN AMBASSADOR HERE MADE MEDIATION OFFER
TO FONMIN KIFLE.) LATEST REPORT FROM ETHIOPIAN CHARGE
IN KHARTOUM LED BEHANU TO BELIEVE THAT SUDANESE AS WELL
WERE NOW MOVING TO DEFUSE OVERCHARGED ATMOSPHERE.

3. BERHANU CONFIRMED THAT SUDANESE DIPLOMAT WITH OAU HAD
CLAIMED THAT HIS HOME HAD BEEN SEARCHED DEC 31 BY ETHIOPIAN
SOLDIERS. IN ACTUALITY, BERHANU SAID, DIPLOMAT IN QUESTION
HAD BEEN RESIDING AT TIME WITH SUDANESE EMBASSY DIPLOMAT.
LATTER'S HOME WAS INDEED SEARCHED INADVERTENTLY, BUT BOTH
DIPLOMATS HAD MISREPRESENTED FACTS IN ATTEMPT TO DRAW OAU
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 ADDIS 00095 070745Z

INTO DISPUTE . AMERICAN DEAN OF DIP CORPS, FLANKED BY OTHER
AMBASSADORS PROTESTED INCIDENT NEXT DAY,AND ACCORDING
EGYPTION DIPLOMAT, FONMIN KIFLE APOLOGIZED AND PROMISED TO ENSURE
THERE WOULD BE NO RECURRENCE.

5. ASKED WHETHER NIMEIRI'S SPEECHES MIGHT
IN PART BE REFLECTION OF HIS DISILLUSIONMENT OVER LACK OF
PROGRESS IN MEDIATING ERITREAN PROBLEM, BERHANU DISCONUNTED
POSSIBILITY, NOTING THAT EPMG HAD NEVER EXPECTED ANYTHING TANGIBLE
TO COME FROM NIMEIRI'S EFFORTS, BUT HAD GONE ALONG WITH THEM
AS GESTURE OF GOOD WILL.
5. SUDANESE FIRST SECRETARY IN ADDIS ALSO SEEMED RELAXED
OVER CONTROVERSY, WHICH HE FLEFT OTHERS WERE EXPEANDING OUT
OF PROPORTION. HE SAID GOS HAD GOOD INFORMATION THAT AT
LEAST SOME DIRG MEMBERS WERE AWARE OF,AND HAD
COLLABORATED IN, JULY 2 PLOT AGAINST NIMEIRI,AND
THAT ARMS WERE BEING PROVIDED TO ANSAR CAMPS VIA PDRY.
CURRENT EXERCISE WAS INTENDED TO FORESTALL SIMAILAR
COLLABORATION IN FUTURE. HE DENIED THAT GROWING GOS

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

RELATIIONSHIP WITH SAUDIS HAD ANY BEARING ON DISPUTE.
ACCORDING TO SOURCE,SUDANESE AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE WOULD
HAVE RETURNED TO KHARTOUM TO ATTEND GOS AMBASSADORIAL
CONFERENCE AND SUDANESE SOCIALIST CONGRESS IN ANY CASE,
AND AMBASSADOR'S FAMILY WOULD REMAIN IN ADDIS.
TIENKEN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, SPEECHES, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 07-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ADDIS00095
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770006-0956
Format: TEL
From: ADDIS ABABA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770173/aaaaclvx.tel
Line Count: 122
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 65a130dc-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 ADDIS ABABA 60
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3648520
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ETHIOPIANS CONTINUE TO DOWNPLAY DISPUTE WITH SUDAN
TAGS: PFOR, ET, SU, XF, (NIMEIRI, JAFAR)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/65a130dc-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009